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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON DATE December 2, 1952

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SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - November 1952

POLITICAL

Action Group tour in East meeting with some success and also some physical opposition. Lukewarm reception at Onitsha and Aba, heckling by NCNC youth groups both places and police lines to insure no violence at Aba. Forced to flee from Umuahia by unruly mob although there was no physical contact. Success at Abakaliki and Enugu not yet ascertained. Size of crowds various spots not certain; one AG estimate of "mammoth" reportedly about 200 persons.

Chief H. O. DAVIES, barrister and some-time politician, invited to assist in defense of Jomo KENYATTA on trial in Nairobi for Mau Mau activities. Accepted with alacrity; departing by air Saturday, November 29. NCNC date for same purpose but apparently at no one's invitation. Trip probably designed to offset the publicity attending Awolowo's Indian trip and Action Groups efforts in Eastern Region.

Another tribal dispute, this time in Ilorin Province, has resulted in one dead, five injured. Inter-tribal dissension over newly appointed village head of Oke Ode ends with dispersal of rioters and arrest of twenty.

Action Group India Tour Winding Up

Obafemi AWOLOWO and his AG visitors to India finishing trip. Statements by him there reported to include one to effect Nigeria rich in gold, diamonds, tin, uranium, timber, rubber and petroleum. Also told Indians that American companies attempting monopoly exploitation of Nigerian tin deposits.

Regions Plan Take Jurisdiction in re Chieftaincy.

Plans to introduce bill in next session central legislature handling jurisdiction over disputes in re chieftaincy succession.

DC/R Central Files 745H.00/12-252

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to Regional governments. Lieutenant-Governors now have authority to settle disputes but would give it up under plan. Central Government supports project.

U. N. Trusteeship Mission Leaves Nigeria

After series hearings throughout British Cameroons and Eastern Nigeria mission has left area. Biggest Cameroons complaint is desire separate administration instead of present position under Eastern Region. Cameroons leaders praised British promotion freedom of speech since taking mandate. Dr. ENELEY, central Minister Without Portfolio, expressed Cameroons fears Nigerian nationalists would ignore their wishes for more freedom. Minister speaks for Cameroons National Federation based on seventeen tribal unions.

C. N. F. plan for Cameroons includes:

1. separate legislatures for Cameroons;
2. unification French and British Cameroons;
3. revision Lands Ordinance in accordance with Cameroons tribal traditions;
4. housing scheme for workers;
5. financial aid from International Monetary Fund;
6. introduction of local government system.

NCNC Split More Evident

Reports, unconfirmed, that Eastern Region National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons Executive may not attend party convention at Jos, December 8 to 14. Eastern group, including many of most influential leaders, upset by NCNC Western Region meetingss decision reject Easterner's resolution to give constitution fair trial. Party cleavage on this point widening, with group demanding immediate drastic revision becoming smaller.

Action Group General Conference December 17 - 20

AG to hold conference Benin City next month. Agenda includes finances, party organization, foreign affairs, African solidarity, ideology, national anthem, national flag.

Azikiwe Canonized

Namdi AZIKIWE and late Herbert MACAULAY canonized by National Church of Nigeria on November 16, Zik's birthday. Prelate admitted ceremony "sure to raise eyebrows" but said posterity would prove them right. Sainthood should give shot in arm to renascent NCNC youth organization in East.

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ECONOMIC

Miners on Plateau Get Raise; Coal Dispute Continues

Nigerian Mining Employers Ass'n. and Plateau Mineworkers Union sign agreement giving miners substantial raises. Group affected includes tin, gold, lead, zinc miners but not coal.

Enugu coal miners again on slowdown strike despite efforts mixed non-coal miners' Enugu council of Labour to settle dispute. Nigeria Coal Corporation still refuses recognize Nigerian Coal Miners' Union on grounds its Executive not representative of workers. Executive evidently holding position by means not normally considered ethical.

Dutch Expert to Study River Transport to North

Government has asked Prof. JANSEN of Delft University to visit Nigeria to advise in re use Niger for bringing out very large peanut backlog in North.

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Eastern Regional Government reported earmarking £1,200,000 for the new cement factory at Nkalagu, Abakaliki Division, Ogoja Province, near proven limestone deposits and rail facilities. Government sure of approval of amount by Eastern House in January vote on next year's budget; is planning start by that time.

Northern Food prices reported generally lower than this time last year. Well distributed rains make food-crop prospects good. Corn doing well; flood water receding rapidly in Sokoto (west) and rice crop has good to excellent prospects.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lagos police find 520 library books in search of CID corporal's home. Seventy-two from USIS Library. Investigations continuing.

Erwin P. Keeler
American Consul General

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